

Docket No. RSW920030263US1

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

**METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR MAINTAINING COMPATIBILITY
5 WITHIN A DISTRIBUTED SYSTEMS MANAGEMENT ENVIRONMENT
 WITH A PLURALITY OF CONFIGURATION VERSIONS**

A method, apparatus and computer instructions are disclosed for maintaining the compatibility of a multiple
10 nodes in a distributed systems management environment with multiple configuration settings, by transforming the configuration data stored in the master repository (one possible realization is where XML documents contain the configuration data) from one version of the product to a
15 previous version of the product. For multiple versions of the systems management environment, a transformation pipeline process (one possible realization of such a process may utilize XSLT) can be used by a "master" node to transform the configuration data multiple times for
20 each version of the environment, until the configuration data has the format of the intended recipient "slave" node. Also, by performing the transformation process on the "master" side of the computing environment, "slave" nodes with older version configuration settings can
25 continue to operate without having to upgrade their software applications in this regard.